DC #6

DIRECT CURRENTS

BOOKS SHIPPING JULY 5 THRU JULY 26

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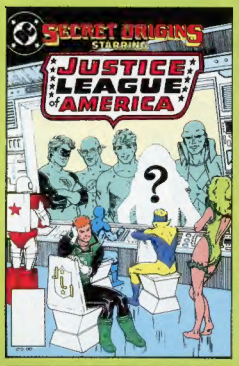
COSMIC ODYSSEY
four-issue Prestige series

DOC SAVAGE
ongoing monthly series

DEADSHOT
four-issue mini-series

PLUS . . .

An interview with Luke McDonnell



Cover Of The Month
SECRET ORIGINS #32

THE ODYSSEY BEGINS

Since time immemorial, the forces of New Genesis and Apokolips have stood at odds for control over the universe.

Nothing less than the threat of total cosmic destruction could forge an alliance between Highfather and Darkseid . . . but that time has come and the story is told in the **COSMIC ODYSSEY**.

Metron has at last unlocked the secret of the mysterious Anti-Life Equation, the very meaning of life itself . . . throwing the fate of the entire universe into question. The only chance for salvation is a hastily assembled team of the universe's greatest heroes, consisting of SUPERMAN, THE BATMAN, GREEN ARROW, MARTIAN MANHUNTER, STARFIRE, ORION and others . . . operating under the joint supervision of Highfather and Darkseid.

COSMIC ODYSSEY is a four-book Prestige Format mini-series written by Jim Starlin and features the art of penciller Mike Mignola, inker Carlos Garzón and colorist Steve Oliff.

Join us on the COSMIC ODYSSEY.

It's a trip you'll never forget.

THE MAN OF BRONZE RETURNS

The legend of DOC SAVAGE continues.

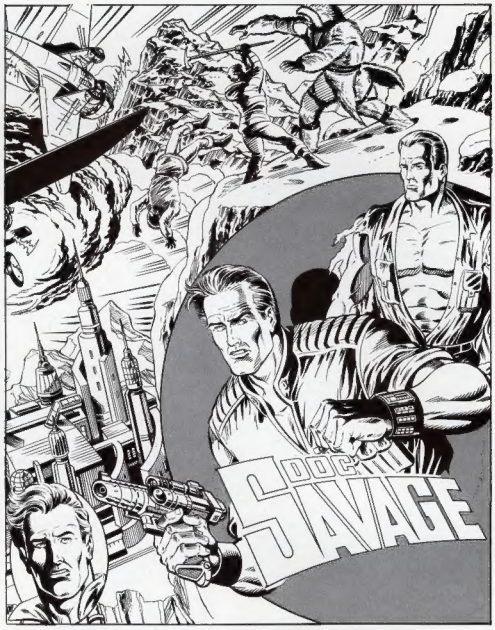
The hit Deluxe Format mini-series by Denny O'Neil and Andy and Adam Kubert told only part of the story of Doc and his descendants, spanning the world and beyond . . . and five decades of action and adventure.

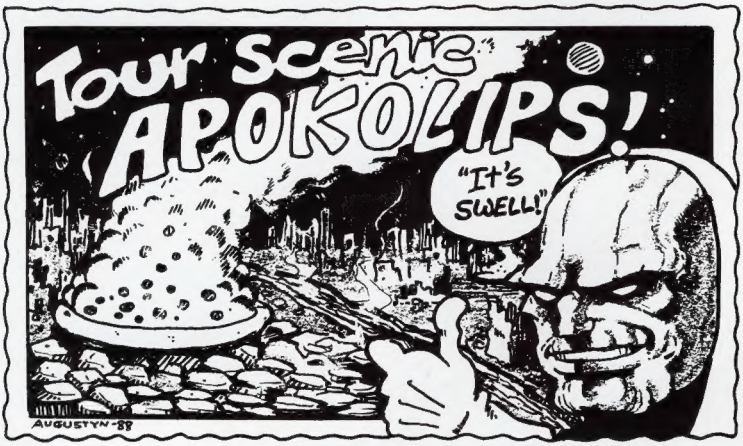
Now the action picks up where the mini-series began. The first and greatest hero of his age returns in **DOC SAVAGE**, an all-new monthly series with the focus on adventure in the grand old tradition. The action is on a global scale, with the emphasis on today's technology, the generation gap separating Doc and his grandson Chip . . . and between Doc's old and *new* operatives.

Dennis O'Neil returns to keep the legend alive as writer of the new monthly Deluxe Format series, joined by penciller Rod Whigham and inker Steve Montano. DOC SAVAGE #1 features a painted cover by Eric Peterson.

DOC SAVAGE.

We've never needed him more than we do now.





Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor
Julia Sabbagh, Designer

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DEADSHOT TAKES AIM

DEADSHOT . . . once he sets his sights on a target, they're as good as dead.

You may have been following DEADSHOT'S story in the pages of SUICIDE SQUAD, but now he takes a leave of absence from his monthly appearances for his own four-issue mini-series. What's the story behind the world's deadliest shot? Where did he come from to take on THE BATMAN and become part of the SUICIDE SQUAD?

And does he really have a death wish of his own?

The answers are here as DEADSHOT confronts his past . . . but the jury's still out on whether he's got a *future*.

Brought to you by the monthly creators of SUICIDE SQUAD, co-writers John Ostrander and Kim Yale and artist Luke McDonnell, DEADSHOT is an in-depth look at the life and times of a man with a deadly talent.

DEADSHOT.

He's taking aim . . . and he never misses.

FROM • THE EDITOR

Do you ever have a question about DC Comics, or about something related to comics in general, and no one to ask? Do you ever have something on your mind—something about comics, that is—that you just wish you could say? Well—now you can write to the letter column of DIRECT CURRENTS.

Each month, I'll print one letter that covers some interesting topic—and I'll discuss it in the column.

And you know what? As many people see DIRECT CURRENTS as buy our most popular title. That's a lot of people who will see your name and your letter. I'll also do my best to send a personal card or letter to everyone who writes in to me at DIRECT CURRENTS.

Maybe you want to know how we pick an artist for a particular book. (Well, actually, the artist usually picks us, or at least the project—our "creator-driven" attitude is what distinguishes us from all the other comic publishers out there.) Or maybe you want to know how we pick artists to feature on DIRECT CURRENTS. (Check out Luke McDonnell in this issue.) Or maybe you want to know what Vice President-Executive Director Dick Giordano had for lunch. (We always check his tie when he returns from lunch. Remnants of the meal are usually visible. [Sorry Dick, word had to leak out on this eventually.])

Do write to the editors directly if you have questions or comments about a specific title. And write to me on those general things that are on your mind. I've already alerted the mailroom to expects lots of cards and letters.

See ya,

Peggy

BOOKS SHIPPING JULY5

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #614
Green Lantern, by Mike Mignola and Ty Templeton, grabs the cover spotlight this week, with his story being told inside by Peter David and Tod Smith. Also featured are Nightwing by Marv Wolfman, Chuck Patton and Tom Poston; Phantom Stranger by Paul Kupperberg and Tom Grindberg; Black Canary by Sharon Wright, Randy DuBurke and Pablo Marcos; and Superman by Roger Stern, Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson. Catwoman, by Mindy Newell and Barry Kitson, continues her run in the Showcase slot.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #614

BATMAN: THE CULT #3
(of a four-book mini-series)
The Batman escapes from the clutches of the demonic Deacon Blackfire . . . but not before the villain's evil hordes have overrun Gotham City, turning it into a living hell on Earth. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Berni Wrightson and color art by Bill Wray. Cover painted by Wrightson. *Prestige Format.*

CAPTAIN ATOM #20
All Cameron Scott wants to do is settle into his new job, but just try telling that to the Blue Beetle, who wants to team up with his JLI buddy, Captain Atom. Written by Cary Bates, with art by Pablo Marcos. Cover by Pat Broderick.

COPS™ #3
The Central Organization of Police Specialists (COPS) go after Dr. Badvibes, as the returning villain plots the conquest of Empire City from the Big Boss' impenetrable fortress beneath the city. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Bart Sears and Pablo Marcos.

DETECTIVE COMICS #591
From The Batman's casebook comes the tale of an Australian aborigine who's come to Gotham in search of a stolen tribal artifact . . . and who's willing to kill everyone who gets in the way of his quest. Written by John Wagner and Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle.

THE NEW GUARDIANS #2
The New Guardians are on the verge of destroying a powerful Colombian drug cartel . . . if the deadly disease that afflicts the heroes doesn't destroy them first. Written by Steven Englehart, with art by Joe Staton and Mark Farmer. Cover by Staton. *New Format.*

THE QUESTION #21
Junior Musto shoots his father and then steals a human heart to save the old man's life. But Junior's not satisfied. And unless the Question can intervene, he will begin slaughtering innocent hostages. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art by Denys Cowan and Rick Magyar. Cover by Cowan and Bill Sienkiewicz. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

SONIC DISRUPTORS #10
(of a twelve-issue maxi-series)
Remember the Alamo? The Sheik will never forget it because the Chinese army is moving in on it. And just to round out the aggravation, he must also rescue Kate Straight from the clutches of Dante. Written by Mike Baron, with art and cover by Barry Crain and John Nyberg. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

THE SPECTRE #19
How many times can a man die? The Spectre begins a new phase in his career as Jim Corrigan's ghastly resurrection makes headlines . . . and leads both man and ghostly guardian into unexplored realms of the supernatural. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Mark Badger. *New Format.*

SUICIDE SQUAD #18
The Jihad brings its terrorism to Manhattan . . . but the Suicide Squad is right on its tail. Plus the debut of a new costume and new powers for Nightshade. Written by John Ostrander, with art by Luke McDonnell and Bob Lewis. Cover by Joe Brozowski and Karl Kesel.

THE WANDERERS #5
What is the terrible secret that has the Wanderers fated to roam the stars for all eternity? The answer is revealed here at last. Written by Doug Moench, with art and cover by Dave Hoover and Robert Campanella. *New Format.*

WASTELAND #11
Who knows what weirdness lurks in the hearts of men? Find out in the WASTELAND, written by John Ostrander and Del Close, with art by David Lloyd, Donald Simpson and guest artist Ty Templeton. Cover by William Messner-Loebs. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

BOOKS SHIPPING JULY12

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #615
Wild Dog returns to the weekly lineup, featured on the cover by Barry Crain and Rick Magyar, with the story by Max Allan Collins, Terry Beatty and John Nyberg. Also featured are Blackhawk, Nightwing, Black Canary, Green Lantern and Superman.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #615

THE BEST OF THE BRAVE & THE BOLD #2
(of a six-issue mini-series)
From Brave & Bold #81, The Batman and Flash team up to fight a foe and find out "But Bork Can Hurt You," by Bob Haney and Neal Adams. Also, the Viking Prince by Joe Kubert (from B&B #5), and Robin Hood by Russ Heath and Viking Prince by Kubert (both from B&B #7). Stories by Robert Kanigher, cover by José Luís García-López, back cover by Andy Kubert. *Deluxe format.*

CHECKMATE #8
Amanda Waller's given the Checkmate team an order . . . kill Black Thorn before she becomes a threat to their security. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Steve Erwin and Al Vey. *New Format.*

DOC SAVAGE #1
The Man of Bronze is back in an ongoing monthly series. The story begins in 1945 as Doc and crew become embroiled in a case that leads to murder, mystery and mayhem for Doc, his grandson and his crew today in 1988. Written by Denny O'Neil, with art by Rod Whigham and Steve Montano. Painted cover by Eric Peterson. *Deluxe Format.*

FIRESTORM THE NUCLEAR MAN #77
Good intentions aren't always enough, as Firestorm and Firehawk learn when they travel to famine-stricken Africa to create a new Eden in the barren desert. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Joe Brozowski and Sam De La Rosa.

FLASH #18
It's Flash and Jerry McGee in a battle with Vandal Savage . . . a battle to the death. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art by Greg LaRocque and Larry Mahlstedt.

HAWK & DOVE #2
(of a five-issue mini-series)
Kestrel's got Hawk right where he wants him, thanks in no small part to Hawk's difficulty in handling the return of Dove. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art and cover by Rob Liefeld and Kesel.

JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL #19
The JLI wants you. The League is looking to recruit new members . . . even as Lobo and Guy Gardner fight it out to the death. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Kevin Maguire and Joe Rubinstein.

MANHUNTER #5
Silvia Kandrey's obsessed . . . with Mark Shaw, Manhunter, and she's not about to let anything get in the way of her possessing the object of her desire. This issue written solo by co-writer Kim Yale, with art by guest penciller Mary Mitchell. Cover by Doug Rice.

V FOR VENDETTA #3
(of a ten-issue maxi-series)
The government's closing in on the mysterious and murderous V . . . how long can even he elude their grasp? Written by Alan Moore, with art and painted cover by David Lloyd. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

WONDER WOMAN #22
The responsibilities of godhood weigh heavily on Hermes as he walks the Earth, seeking solutions to his dilemma. Will his presence help or harm Diana's cause? Written and pencilled by George Pérez and inked by Bob McLeod. Cover by Pérez.

WORLD OF METROPOLIS #4
(of a four-issue mini-series)
Ever wonder what created the friendship between Superman and Jimmy Olsen? The tale is told here, including the origin of Jimmy's signal watch. Written by John Byrne, with art by Win Mortimer, Dick Giordano and Sal Trapani. Cover by Byrne and Giordano.

YOUNG ALL-STARS #18
Part 3 of the four-part "Dzyan Inheritance" takes the Young All-Stars to the Arctic to battle Dzyan and his Nazi masters . . . not to mention the legendary Frankenstein Monster. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art by Ron Harris and Malcolm Jones. *New Format.*

BOOKS SHIPPING JULY19

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #616
The action continues, starring Alex Toth's rendition of Blackhawk on the cover and featuring the adventures of Wild Dog, Nightwing, Black Canary, Green Lantern, Superman and Blackhawk.

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #616

THE BATMAN #425
A drug kingpin plots to kill the Batman . . . and makes Commissioner Gordon part of the plan. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Mark Bright and Steve Mitchell.

DEADSHOT #1
(of a four-issue mini-series)
With Deadshot, it's a definite hit . . . and never any misses. From out of the pages of SUICIDE SQUAD, the deadly hitman with a death wish of his own is forced to confront his past. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Luke McDonnell.

GREEN ARROW #10
The incredible four-part sequel to THE LONGBOW HUNTERS continues as Green Arrow operates without government sanction to go after Shado, herself on the run from the Yakuza. Problem is, he suddenly finds himself . . . attracted to his prey. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano. Cover by Grell. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

GREEN LANTERN SPECIAL #1
Wondering what the lowdown is on the power rings and what they can do? "With This Ring . . ." tells the tale as John Stewart and Hal Jordan find themselves in South Africa, trying to determine which side they're on. Guest starring Superman. Written by Jim Owsley, with art by Tod Smith and Steve Mitchell.

HAYWIRE #2
The Black Dragon assassinates a political candidate . . . how does this tie in with the origin of the mysterious Haywire? Written by Michael Fleisher, with art and cover by Vince Giarrano and Kyle Baker. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

HELLBLAZER #11
The Newcastle incident . . . a moment that forever changed Constantine's life. The full story is revealed at last in the first of this two-part story. Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Richard Piers Rayner. Painted cover by Dave McKean. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #52
The past is catching up with a trio of Legionnaires as Mon-El and Magnetic Kid journey back to their homeworlds . . . and Blok forms a mysterious alliance with his old companions from the League of Super-Assassins. Written by Paul Levitz, with art by Keith Giffen and Mike DeCarlo. Cover by Steve Lightle. *Deluxe Format.*

SECRET ORIGINS #32
The origin of the original Justice League of America is retold, starring Green Lantern, The Flash, Aquaman, The Martian Manhunter and . . . say, who *was* the fifth member of the first team, anyway? Written by Keith Giffen and Peter David, with art and cover by Eric Shanower.

STAR TREK #56
The tales of the Enterprise and her intrepid crew continue with this special story hearkening back to the original five-year mission as they encounter a religious leader with healing powers and a mysterious mission of his own. Written by Martin Pasko, with art by Gray Morrow and cover by Jerome Moore.

SUPERMAN #23
The Man of Steel is lured to the British Isles to unravel the final chapter of the Silver Banshee's origin . . . to try to rescue Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane from her deadly clutches. Written by Roger Stern, with art and cover by Mike Mignola and P. Craig Russell.

TAILGUNNER JO #3
(of a six-issue mini-series)
Gunner and Jo flee from Telemachus . . . but not before they learn of the death of Jo's mother. No matter how hard they run, there will never be a way out of the father and daughter's forced symbiosis. Written by Peter Gillis, with art and cover by Tom Artis. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

WHO'S WHO IN THE DC UNIVERSE UPDATE '88 #4
(of a four-issue mini-series)
The year's wrap-up of who's who and what's what in the DC Universe concludes with profiles and updates on the Wanderers, Wildfire, Zatanna and many more, featuring art by Barreto, Breyfogle, Pérez, García-López and others.

BOOKS SHIPPING JULY 26

ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #617
Dean Motter does the honors on this week's cover, featuring Superman, whose adventures continue inside. The Phantom Stranger returns along with weekly regulars Blackhawk, Wild Dog, Nightwing and Green Lantern

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #446
Is Lex Luthor turning noble on us? Why else would he want to see to it that Jose Delgado, the Gangbuster, will be able to walk again? Written and pencilled by Jerry Ordway and inked by Dennis Janke. Cover by Ordway.

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #446

ANIMAL MAN #3
It's a jungle out there, as Animal Man learns the identity of the mad mastermind behind the bizarre mutations . . . while his wife and daughter fight for their lives in the wilderness. Written by Grant Morrison, with art by Chas Truog and Doug Hazlewood. Cover by Brian Bolland. *New Format.*

COSMIC ODYSSEY #1
(of a four-book mini-series)
Highfather of New Genesis and Darkseid of Apokolips . . . what could be so disastrous that it would cause these two eternal foes to join forces? The path of the Cosmic Odyssey begins here as their ragtag team of agents, including Superman, the Batman, Green Lantern and Martian Manhunter, begin their quest to save the cosmos from destruction. Written by Jim Starlin, with art by Mike Mignola and Carlos Garzón and coloring by Steve Oliff. Full-color cover by Mignola and Oliff. *Prestige Format.*

THE DOOM PATROL #14
The Doom Patrol find themselves drawn into the cosmic conflict between the Lords of Order and Chaos as Power Girl journeys to Kansas City to seek their help. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art and cover by Erik Larsen and Al Gordon.

FLASH GORDON #6
(of a nine-issue maxi-series)
There's trouble in paradise when Flash and Dale discover an arctic city that looks, at first, to be a little bit of heaven on Mongo . . . until they learn the horrible price paradise can exact. Written and pencilled by Dan Jurgens and inked by Bruce Patterson. Cover by Jurgens and Patterson. *New Format.*

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #49
Hammer and Sickle are out to kill Red Star, and the Titans are determined to stop them . . . but they can't forget that the Soviet team beat them badly the last time around. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Eduardo Barreto and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Barreto. (Next month, George Pérez returns as penciller.)

POWER OF THE ATOM #4
The Atom has a lot to worry about as he battles a deadly menace alongside Hawkman and Hawkwoman . . . while facing up to a personal crisis that might ruin him. Written by Roger Stern, with art and cover by Dwayne Turner and Kez Wilson. Plus: DC BONUS BOOK #8, featuring the Atom in an all-new adventure by new talent discoveries Joe Calchi, Jim Balent and Dan Schafer.

THE SHADOW #16
Can anyone take the place of the Shadow? The search is on for just such a man in New York, while in Tibet, the sons of the Shadow reach their final destination. Written by Andy Helfer, with art and cover by Kyle Baker. *Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.*

STARMAN #2
It's all a matter of "Field Testing" for Starman to discover the full extent of his powers, but the mysterious Dr. Melrose is rapidly losing patience with this new super-hero. Written by Roger Stern, with art and cover by Tom Lyle and Bob Smith.

STARMAN #2

SWAMP THING #78
Swamp Thing . . . pregnant? It's a true, albeit bizarre and poignant tale with a most unexpected ending. Written by guest scripter Steve Bissette, with art by guest penciller Tom Mandrake and Alfredo Alcala. Cover by Dave McKean. *Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.*

WARLORD #132
The very fabric of reality is being eaten away by a hideous creature that might be too powerful for even the Warlord and his assembled forces. Written by Michael Fleisher, with art and cover by Jan Duursema.

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES #7
(of a seven-issue maxi-series)
The conclusion of the complete rundown on the Legion, written by Barbara Randall. The wraparound cover features a jam effort starring all 267 characters who have appeared in this WHO'S WHO, drawn by a host of DC's top artists.

people at WORK

LUKE McDONNELL

SUICIDE SQUAD and DEADSHOT—two very sinister comic book titles about a lot of truly sinister characters. And not exactly the sort of stories you would expect from the drawing board of soft-spoken Luke McDonnell. But beneath his quiet exterior beats the heart of a rebel. "SUICIDE SQUAD is the ultimate anti-*heroes* comic," Luke says. "I was a big James Dean fan, and he was emblematic of that whole 'get lost' attitude. That's was makes the bad guys like Captain Boomerang so great to work on. He's so awful you can't go far wrong with him, no matter what you have him do. All the hoods are a lot of fun. They make such a great counterpart to the stiff-upper-lip heroic guys."

Luke McDonnell was born in New York City in 1959, but due to his father's job with IBM, his family moved around the country, first to the suburbs, then Pennsylvania and finally California. His interest in drawing began early, encouraged by his parents. "We had a big blackboard on the wall at home, and my brother and I were always drawing on it. We'd have drawing contests where my folks would give us a topic and we'd each draw our version of it for them to judge.

"I first got interested in comic books around the same time, I guess about six or seven years old. I read mostly Marvels back then, but I kind of lost interest in drawing and comics after a while."

Luke got back in touch with both areas in high school. "I took some art courses as a teenager, and I majored in graphic arts in college. I also looked at several of Burne Hogarth's books on drawing and anatomy. As a matter of fact, when I came back East after college to break into the comic book business, he was one of the first guys I looked up. I was staying with some old family friends in Pleasantville, New York, and I found out Hogarth lived right over the hill from where I was. For all his stature as one of the founding fathers of narrative adventure strips [Hogarth became famous in the 1930s as writer and artist of the Tarzan newspaper strip], he was very generous with his talent and knowledge. It was really an experience for me."

Luke had his eye on making comic books his profession even before his return to New York. "During my first year in college I worked up some art samples and sent them to DC Comics. I got a note back from Carmine Infantino, who was in charge of the place in those days, telling me that my stuff looked pretty good and I should try them again in six months, after I'd had a little more experience.

"But I kind of let it slide for a year and then I started getting the itch again, so I did up some more samples and came out to New York. This was in 1980. I went up to DC and got an assignment, a one-page story for WEIRD WAR TALES. I took the script back to California and did it, then waited for word. The word came from Marv Wolfman—telling me to do it all over. My first pencils were *not* a great success."

He didn't let that minor setback deter him. "At the end of the summer of that year I came east to live, to be near the comic publishers and show them I was serious.

"I had met J. M. DeMatteis, and he took me up to Marvel and introduced me around. I landed a job doing STAR TREK, which they were publishing then. It was a rush job—had to be done in two weeks—but I got it done. Tom Palmer inked it, which was great. It made me look a lot better than I was. But they must have liked it because I was made the regular penciller on the book. Unfortunately, it was canceled not long afterward.

"So I kicked around a bit and did some fill-ins on SPIDER-MAN, THOR, TEAM AMERICA, things like that for about a year and a half, before I landed IRON MAN, which I pencilled for about two years."

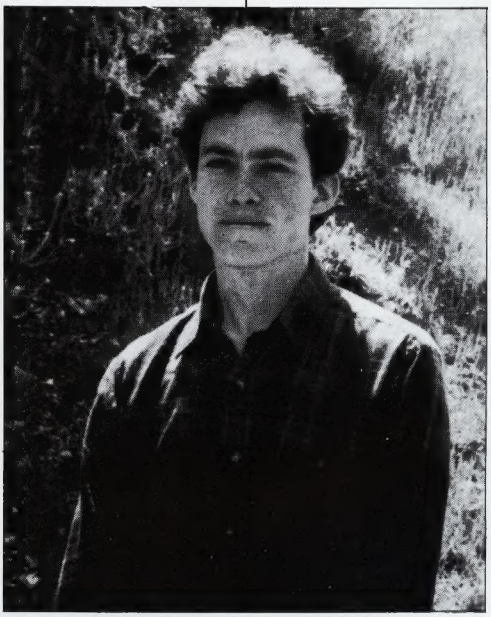
After IRON MAN, Luke once again set his sights on DC. "The JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA was being revamped, and I wound up with the assignment, which lasted a year before the change over to JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL." And that's when SUICIDE SQUAD came along.

"I had never heard of the old BRAVE AND THE BOLD series," Luke admits. "By the time I came along, John Ostrander had the revised group pretty much scoped out. My input was mostly on the visual end. What I did, basically, was create the environment, the look and atmosphere of the book. I also came up with the design for Belle Reve Prison and a few of the new costume designs."

Which brings us to DEADSHOT, the four-issue mini-series starring one of the SUICIDE SQUAD'S most popular characters. Luke's responsibilities on DEADSHOT go beyond the pencil art. "I'm inking my own stuff on the series," he says. "It's great being able to do that. I don't have to spell everything out in the pencils because I can come back and pull it all together with the inks. It gives me a lot more control, and I can try different things.

"John Ostrander and Kim Yale have written a real interesting story," he continues. "You know, Deadshot's a very confused character. He started out wanting to emulate The Batman but, because of his parents and upbringing, his good intentions have gotten twisted around so you're no longer sure where he stands. He has a disregard for life that gives him a quality of abandon that makes him real interesting."

Luke currently lives with his wife and son in upstate New York. "I've got a terrific son, who's one and a half now. He's already drawing," the proud father points out. "He crawls up on the drawing board, grabs a marker and starts scribbling away." From the sound of things, Luke is going to *need* a helper to assist him on what promises to be a long and busy career.



DOCTOR NO

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of SHOWCASE #43 (1964), DC Comics' first movie adaption in the modern era. Next month, we'll bring you OUTER HEAT, a tie-in with this summer's hot movie from 20th Century Fox.